

Recreation

Recreation at Chief Joseph Dam is centered around the Columbia River. Behind the dam is fifty-one mile long [Rufus Woods Lake](#). Fishing, boating, camping and hiking are the most popular recreation activities. A chart provides an overall view of recreational facilities. A map shows where the facilities are located. Immediately below is an alphabetical list of recreation topics, with bookmarks to reach them quicker.

<u>Accessible Facilities</u>	Accessibility at recreation areas.
Boating	There are two boat ramps with docks on Rufus Woods Lake near Chief Joseph Dam; the Bridgeport State Park Ramp on the north shore and the Willow Flats upstream boat ramp on the south shore. On the upper portion of the lake, two more boat ramps are located on the north shore; the Seaton's Grove boat ramp near Elmer City and a gravel ramp located at River Mile 581, off of the Columbia River road. Downstream of the dam on Lake Pateros, boaters can use a ramp at Marina Park.
<u>Camping</u>	Bridgeport State Park, Marina Park, Rocky Flats, and the Colville Tribe Net Pens are the campgrounds in the Chief Joseph

	Dam and Rufus Woods Lake area.
<u>Fishing</u>	Rufus Woods Lake anglers fish primarily for walleye, rainbow trout, and landlocked sockeye salmon (kokanee). Anglers can visit the Seattle District Reservoir Control Center webpages to track both river flow and lake levels.
Golfing	Lake Woods Golf Course is next to Bridgeport State Park on the north shore.
Hiking	The North Shore Trail extends two miles from the Orientation Area, through the Tower Trailhead to the Dunes Trailhead on the boundary of Bridgeport State Park. A spur trail connects to the Spillway Viewpoint at the North end of Chief Joseph Dam. The South Shore Trail is a gravel trail that goes around the Debris Basin, connecting to the Willow Flat Recreation Area.
	Due to safety and security concerns, hunting is not allowed on any U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands immediately adjacent to the dam. Hunting is also not permitted at the Brandt's Landing Recreation Area, which is open for watchable wildlife viewing, picnicking, and fishing only.

Hunting	<p>For specific information regarding land ownership and hunting on or along Rufus Woods Lake, hunters should contact the Bureau of Land Management, Washington Department of Natural Resources, or Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Hunters are reminded that it is their responsibility to know the ownership of the land they wish to hunt. There is no owner responsibility to post lands in the State of Washington.</p> <p>If there are any questions regarding hunting on federal property managed by the U.S. Army Corps on Engineers, please contact Wildlife Biologist Bob Fischer at 509-686-3540.</p>
<u>Regulations</u>	<p>Chief Joseph Dam and Rufus Woods Lake are managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and subject to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Washington State has Boating, Fishing & Hunting Regulations which also apply.</p>
Swimming	<p>Bridgeport State Park has a swim beach and Marina Park in Bridgeport has a swimming area in a small bay.</p>

[Weather](#)

Chief Joseph Dam's Weather Page.

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